

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 06455 300010Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 JUSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 EB-08 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1858

ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06455

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: HEIGHTENING MEXICAN INTEREST IN ILLEGAL

ALIEN ISSUE

REF: (A) USIS MEXICO MEDIA REACTION REPORTS APRIL 29

AND APRIL 25, 1977, (B) TIJUANA 212

1. MEXICO CITY PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY PROMINENT US OFFICIALS (ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL IN SAN DIEGO, LABOR SECRETARY MARSHALL IN GUADALAJARA, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR BROWN AND SAN DIEGO MAYOR WILSON FOLLOWING APRIL 23 JLP MEETINGS IN TIJUANA, CHICANO LEADER CESAR CHAVEZ IN MEXICO CITY) CONCERNING NATURE, IMPACT AND POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM. WHILE SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENTS AND THEIR TREATMENT IN MEXICAN PRESS HAS VARIED GREATLY, PROMINENT COVERAGE ATTESTS TO HIGH LEVEL MEDIA AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN EXISTING SITUATION. LATEST EVIDENCE OF CONCERN WITH THIS PROBLEM IS EXCELSIOR REPRINT APRIL 29 OF RICHARD HALLORAN ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES SUMMARIZING RECOMMENDATIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO PRESID-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 06455 300010Z

ENT CARTER, AND ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS TAKING ON CHARACTER OF AN INVASION, THAT ILLEGALS FLOW CANNOT BE STOPPED AS LONG AS MEXICO'S ECONOMIC SITUATION FAILS TO GUARANTEE THEM JOBS IN MEXICO. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES ON PESSIMISTIC NOTE THAT AMNESTY IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MEXICAN WORKERS CROSSING BORDER INTO US.

2. TO DATE, EMPHASIS IN MEXICAN PRESS HAS BEEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM (I.E., INHUMANE CONDITIONS IN WHICH ILLEGALS LIVE AND WORK IN US), PROSPECT OF USG GRANTING AMNESTY TO MEXICAN ILLEGALS, RELATIONSHIP OF ILLEGAL PROBLEM TO MEXICO'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITH CORRESPONDING NEED FOR MODIFICATIONS IN US TRADE POLICY TO STIMULATE MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, ETC. EXCELSIOR (APRIL 22) CARRIED AP STORY ON ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL'S SPEECH IN SAN DIEGO OUTLINING MEASURES--INCLUDING RODINO-TYPE PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYERS OF IL-LEGALS--WHICH CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING. MEXICAN MEDIA WILL CERTAINLY BE FOLLOWING AVIDLY, EAGERLY AND CRITICALLY, THE PROCESS FROM CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS TO SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS TO ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION, AND MEXICAN POLITICAL FIGURES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, SENSITIVE AND EMOTION-CHARGED AS IT IS.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S LOS ANGELES TIMES INTERVIEW (REFTEL B), GOM DOES NOT AS YET APPEAR TO HAVE FORMULATED COMPREHENSIVE VIEW CONCERNING PACKAGE OF MEASURES WHICH USG IS REPORTEDLY STUDYING TO COPE WITH ILLEGAL PROBLEM. DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE, MEXICO'S LEADING ACADEMIC EXPERT ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION, INFORMED EMBOFF ON APRIL 26 THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING NEXT WEEK TO LEARN HIS VIEWS. APPARENTLY, THIS IS PART OF GOM MOVE TO DEVELOP POSITION AND STRATEGY ON COMPLEX ISSUE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 06455 300010Z

UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED SHOULD BE ON THE AGENDA OF ISSUES THAT BILATERAL MECHANISM EMERGING FROM JLP-CARTER MEETING WILL TREAT. BUSTAMANTE, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TYPE OF AMNESTY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN US WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY LIBERAL TO COVER APPRECIABLE NUMBER OF MEXICAN ILLEGALS. PRESUMABLY, HE WILL MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO PRESIDENT ALTHOUGH AS ACADEMIC, HIS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE GOM THINKING ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES IS UNCLEAR. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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